

ALAMEDA READS NEWSLETTER

ANOTHER SERVICE OF THE ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY



September—November 2011

ALAMEDA READS

Adult Literacy Program

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Monday—Thursday
9:00 am—1:00 pm

and by appointment

Year-End Results Are In

...and they are GREAT! Thanks to you, tutors and learners, for your hard work and dedication. 47 faithful volunteers contributed **2,424 hours** to the cause of adult literacy. Here's a brief look at some of the accomplishments of the past year.

- ✓ 39 learners stated they are now more confident
- ✓ 14 students read a book, newspaper, or magazine
- ✓ 11 got involved in their children's education
- ✓ 8 students met work-related goals

Hats off to our awesome tutors and students. You inspire us every day with your dedication and enthusiasm!

Computer Progress with Alameda Reads

For several years I have had a computer at home. I took a few classes hoping to learn a few basic popular uses like email, placing ads, and buying merchandise.

I recently meet Joe through the library program, Alameda Reads. We have two short private lessons per week. I am happy to say that my computer at home is now being useful. During my sessions with Joe, I now have many lists of procedures on how to do various things with my computer. These lists now make it very easy for me to use my computer by myself. Here is an example of my procedures for Craigslist.

Craigslist is a web site that lets you buy or sell almost anything. I have sold a car using Craigslist and have bought car parts as well. This web site has become a very valuable tool for me. To access Craigslist you just type: www.craigslist.com.

To Check My Account and current ad:

1. Click "my account"
2. Enter "my email address"
3. Enter "my password"
4. Click on "log in"
5. Click on "manage"
6. Click on "repost this posting"
7. Click on "cars and trucks by owner"
8. Click on "location"
9. Click on "Alameda"
10. Click on "continue"
11. Check the "add/edit images"
12. Click "continue"
13. Type the security phase as shown in the box
14. Click on "continue"
15. Done!



Book Club

Learner Successes

Karina: passed her CBEST test

Candelario: Got a job

Julius: Read 2 novels

Jungsook: Wrote a story about her visit back home

Xinxin: Is co-leading Book Club

Arena: Finished her foster care license

Do you want to make friends with people who love to read while sharing your likes and opinions about books? You're all invited to join our Book Club! Alameda Reads Book Club was established in 2003. Over the years, more than 60 books have been read and discussed by our learners and sometimes tutors. Our last book was **The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch**. Pat Gallagher has been hosting Book Club since its beginning. Our next meeting in September and onward, Xinxin, one of our students, will facilitate and Pat will co-lead the discussion.

This is the schedule of books being read and discussed over the next four months. These are short mystery stories that should be fun to read! You're encouraged to pick up these FREE books at the office and then make plans to participate in these spirited discussions held on one Thursday each month.— *by Xinxin*

Thursdays, 6:30—8:00 pm, Alameda Reads Office

Sept. 22—The Perfect Holiday by Cathy Kelly

"On an idyllic Greek island, Anthony and Claire have begun to repair their damaged marriage. Widowed Jessica has started to heal and is learning to live her life again. Susie is on her last girly holiday with best friend Chloe before she ties the knot. But on the flight home, unexpected and startling events force all of them to face up aspects of their lives they have been avoiding for so long." (87 pages)

Oct. 20—Chickenfeed by Minette Walters

"Based on the true story of the 'chicken farm murder', which took place at Blackness, Croborough, East Sussex in December 1924. Norman Thorne was found guilty of the murder of Elsie Cameron, but even at the time of his execution there were doubts about his guilt." (128 pages)

Nov. 17—The Dare by John Boyne

"...from the point of view of a twelve-year-old boy, The Dare is about how one moment can change a family forever." (102 pages)

Dec. 8—The Perfect Murder by Peter James

"Victor Smiley and his wife Joan have been married for nearly twenty years. Their marriage has reached a crisis point. Victor decides there is only one way to get Joan out of his life forever, but he's about to get a nasty surprise. As it turns out, Victor's not the only one with murder in mind..." (128 pages)

Book Review: Life is so Good

It's an amazing story of George Dawson's century of life. I had lots of laughs and tears reading it. I also found that it is full of wisdom and lots of love. He grew up listening to stories from his grandmother and great grandmother who were slaves. He worked hard all his life, since he was very young, and never was afraid of hard labor. There is no bitterness coming from him despite all the hardships he experienced. I got a kick out of how he was helping his children with their home work even though he couldn't read. He was very clever because he knew what and how to talk to people. It is amazing to know that he learned how to read at the age of 98. He inspired so many people across the country, young and old. Because of his illiteracy he never let his mind forget anything or let his mind take a vacation. George Dawson showed me life from a black man's perspective.

— *by Akiko Journey*

BOOK CLUB CALENDAR

**Thursdays
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM**

September 22

October 20

November 17

December 8

**Learners & Tutors
are welcome**

**Alameda Reads
Office, Room 350
2203 Central Ave.**



"News You Can Use" is an Amazing Class

We're eager to attend this class one Saturday each month for interesting discussions about current events from the newspaper *News for You*. Our instructor, Ms. Sue Mark teaches us how to read this newspaper with 5Ws thinking skill. We can practice our reading and writing in the class. We really enjoy what she has taught us and she shows us how to develop different ideas together with our classmates. We can share our ideas and talk openly. It's a great opportunity for fun learning.

— Xinxin Liang and Carmen Chu



News You Can Use class

News You Can Use

*Saturdays
at the Library
Room 138*

10:00 AM—12:30 PM

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***September 10
October 15
November 5
December 3***

Reading & Writing for ME

What are my goals?

What are the steps I need to take to reach my goals?

How can I make my reading and writing more useful in daily life?

This reading and writing class will develop critical thinking skills in a fun, interactive group. We will develop grammar and speaking skills to communicate better with others. And we will discuss how to set personal goals, and have lots of time reading, writing, and speaking.

This series begins in October and Jordona Elderts will be teaching. Two sessions are offered, Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings.

Sign-up for the session that fits your schedule.

Come check it out!

I enjoy being in the new learner class because every lesson is useful in everyday life. — Candelario

I like the class because I have practice to speak with people, writing and reading. I have a nice teacher and met new friends. I feel very good and comfortable here. — Olga

I like the new learner class because it is helpful and fun. I recommend this class for students who want to learn new things. — Jack

Reading & Writing for ME

at the Library
Room 138 or 224

***Wednesday nights
6:00—8:00 PM***

Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26

Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30

***Thursday mornings
10:00 AM—12:00 PM***

Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27

Nov. 3, 10, 17, Dec. 1

Look for a schedule in the mail.

September 8th, 2011 International Literacy Day...

Is recognized world-wide every year on this day.

875 million adults across the globe don't know how to read and write.

Good reading and writing skills help us to:

- * Be healthier
- * Have better jobs
- * Support our children in school
- * Enjoy life!

Window of Words

Please stop by to celebrate the day with us at the
Main Library 10:00 AM—6:00 PM.
Write your favorite word on the window!

FREE Microsoft Word Classes

at the Main Library
Sundays, 1-5pm (Drop-in: come any time)
September 4, 11, 18, 25

Coming Soon...

Computer Writing Classes

Do you want to improve your writing?
Using the computer can help!

Alameda Reads tutor and computer specialist
Joe Brandt will teach you how to use new
software. You need to know how to use
Microsoft Word to come to this class.

*Please call the office for more information and to
sign up.*

Classes meet at the computer lab in the Main
Library.

**Tuesday Evenings, 6pm—8pm
November 1, 8, 15**

**THANK YOU to all of our learners who wrote articles for this newsletter.
Send us your writing for our next newsletter!**

Read Write Learn

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